

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:MTDIXON:BM

APPROVED BY EUR:JAARMITAGE

EB/TT/OA/AN - JMAGNOR (SUBS)

C - WSHINN

S/S:FVORTIZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652, N/A

TAGS: EAIR, US, IR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: CURRENT BILATERAL ISSUES

REF: MOSCOW 11452

1. SOVIET "NOTE" MENTIONED IN REFTTEL, PARA 4, WAS LETTER FROM SOVIET DCM VORONTSOV TO DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARMITAGE DISAVOWING SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN SELLING OF AEROFLOT TICKETS AT REDUCED RATES AND REQUESTING DEPARTMENT "TO TAKE MEASURES TO PUT AN END TO THE PROSECUTION OF AEROFLOT AIRLINE." FIRST SECRETARY MIKHAIL F. TREPYKHALIN, AND IVAN SHTEFAN, AEROFLOT REGIONAL MANAGER, DURING AUGUST 20 CALL ON EUR/SOV DIRECTOR BROUGHT UP THIS MATTER. GARRISON NOTED THAT DEPARTMENT HAD GIVEN MATTER CAREFUL STUDY, HAD PASSED THE CORRESPONDENCE TO PROPER AUTHORITIES, BUT HAD CONCLUDED THAT WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO

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INFLUENCE THE PENDING CASE. GARRISON THEN HANDED OVER

ARMITAGE REPLY, AND REFERRING TO SHTEFAN HINTS
ABOUT RETALIATION, EXPRESSED HOPE THIS WOULD NOT OCCUR.
TREPYKHALIN AND SHTEFAN QUICKLY RESPONDED THAT USSR WAS

NOT CONTEMPLATING RETALIATION BUT SAID IT WAS DIFFICULT TO
CONTROL SOME SOVIET "HARDLINERS."

2. VORONTSOV LETTER AND DEPARTMENT RESPONSE BEING POUCHED
TO MOSCOW.

3. DURING SAME MEETING SHTEFAN REFERRED TO AUGUST 13
DISCUSSION INDICATING MID-SEPTEMBER SEEMED TO BE A GOOD
TIME FOR INTERGOVERNMENTAL CIVIL AVIATION TALKS REPORTED
REFTEL. SHTEFAN STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF EARLY CONVENING
OF TALKS IN ORDER THAT AEROFLOT MIGHT ADEQUATELY ADVERTISE
ITS FLIGHTS TO U.S. AND AVOID CONSIDERABLE PROFIT LOSSES
BY PAN AM AND AEROFLOT DUE TO KEEN COMPETITION BY THIRD
COUNTRY AIRLINES ACROSS NORTH ATLANTIC. GARRISON REPLIED
U.S. CURRENTLY CONSIDERING SUCH TALKS BUT NOT PREPARED
TO AGREE ON THEIR EXACT TIMING AS U.S. EXPERTS WANT FIRST
TO REVIEW 1975 SUMMER SEASON DATA.

4. IF APPROACHED BY SOVIETS ON THE ABOVE MATTERS, DEPART-
MENT SUGGESTS RESPONSE ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

A) DEPARTMENT HAS CAREFULLY REVIEWED ALL MERITS OF
AEROFLOT LEGAL CASE AND POSSIBLE INFLUENCE WE MIGHT HAVE.
AS CASE IS CLEARLY NON-DISCRIMINATORY, HOWEVER, DEPARTMENT
HAS DETERMINED THAT IT HAS NO ROLE TO PLAY IN THIS
STRICTLY LEGAL MATTER;
B) RE BILATERAL CIVIL AVIATION TALKS, U.S. IS CURRENTLY
CONSIDERING FEASIBILITY OF TALKS BUT IS NOT PREPARED AT
THIS TIME TO AGREE ON THEIR EXACT TIMING. INGERSOLL

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